

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLaforcade (US Patent 7,287,666). Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 4 and 6.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged acceptance of the drawings, and hereby respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the drawings in the next Office Communication.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 26, 2006 and October 27, 2006.

Claim Objection

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants hereby write a portion of claim 4 into claim 1, and request that the rewriting of the remainder of claim 4 be held in abeyance until the Examiner has taken the opportunity to reconsider the prior art rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is immediately allowable.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As a path of least resistance, Applicants hereby amending claim 6 in order to correct any alleged deficiency noted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLaforcade (US Patent 7,287,666).

Claim 1 is hereby amended to incorporate a portion of claim 4, and recites, in part, “the pressing member is rotatably disposed so as to press the sheet products toward the friction drag member by shifting the free end of the extending portion from the bottom of the container body toward the friction drag member.” The Examiner concedes that DeLaforcade fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is immediately allowable. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are immediately allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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